



(19)

Europäisches Patentamt

European Patent Office

Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 0 734 253 B1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

(45) Date of publication and mention
of the grant of the patent:

20.02.2002 Bulletin 2002/08

(51) Int Cl.⁷: A61K 9/48

(21) Application number: 95902878.8

(86) International application number:
PCT/GB94/02703

(22) Date of filing: 12.12.1994

(87) International publication number:
WO 95/16438 (22.06.1995 Gazette 1995/26)

(54) BIPHASIC CAPSULE FORMULATION

ZWEIPHASIGE ZUSAMMENSETZUNG IN KAPSELNFORM

FORMULATIONS DE GELULE A LIBERATION BIPHASEE

(84) Designated Contracting States:

AT BE CH DE DK ES FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC NL
PT SE

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(43) Date of publication of application:
02.10.1996 Bulletin 1996/40

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EP 0 734 253 B1

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Description

[0001] The present invention relates to improved capsule formulations, in particular biphasic capsule formulations.

[0002] WO-A-9206680 discloses biphasic release formulations for lipophilic drugs comprising a C₁₂-C₂₄ fatty acid and a pharmaceutically active substance. A portion of the formulation is formulated for non-sustained release and is generally in liquid form and a portion is formulated for sustained release on non-parenteral administration and will generally be a solid.

[0003] The formulations are extremely effective for the administration of lipophilic pharmaceutically active substances greatly enhancing oral bioavailability of propranolol. These results have been published (Barnwell *et al*, *J. Controlled Release*, 28, 306-309 (1994)), but it has been discovered that there are certain problems with the stability of the compositions even when stored at ambient temperature.

[0004] After capsules containing biphasic formulations such as those described in WO-A-9206680 have been stored for periods of greater than 3 months at ambient temperature, there is a decline in *in vitro* dissolution performance compared with initial values. The level of propranolol released from the formulation after 12 months' storage at ambient temperature was found to be reduced by 50% compared with initial values. In contrast, prolonged storage of capsules containing only the liquid rapid-release phase and capsules containing only the solid sustained release phase did not result in any change in dissolution profile. This unstable release profile is therefore a problem only with biphasic formulations and represents a serious drawback in the development of such formulations since, clearly, a pharmaceutical formulation which is not stable under ambient storage conditions is of limited use in practice.

[0005] On investigation, it appeared that the deterioration in the release profile had arisen because, unexpectedly, the two phases of the formulation had become mixed during the storage of the capsule and the mixing of the phases had caused the release characteristics of both parts of the formulation to deteriorate. Deterioration was characterised by a visible intermixing between the two phases and a decline in *in vitro* dissolution performance. The rate of intermixing between the liquid rapid and solid sustained-release phases of the formulation was accelerated at elevated storage temperatures, eg 37°C, but much reduced at 4°C.

[0006] Therefore, the object of the invention is to provide a pharmaceutical formulation comprising a capsule containing at least two fill compositions in which the fill compositions are prevented from mixing with one another.

[0007] The capsule fill compositions may be compositions comprising C₁₂-C₂₄ fatty acids such as those disclosed in WO-A-9206680. The invention is particularly useful when one of the fill compositions is a solid and one a liquid, especially when the solid component also comprises glycerides, for example the GELUCIRE™ mixture disclosed in Example 1 of WO-A-9206680. In that case, the fatty acids tend to dissolve the lower molecular weight lipids of the solid composition so that they gradually mix with the liquid composition. The progressive solubilisation of the lower molecular weight glycerides into the liquid composition slows down the rapid release characteristics of the liquid phase. It also leaves in the solid phase only the higher molecular weight glyceride components which do not easily erode to allow the release of the remaining fatty acid and the active material. An example of a modified capsule would be an adaptation of the potato starch Capill® capsules manufactured by Capsugel Limited. In this case, the starch capsule would be manufactured with a central partition and two open ends. This would allow two separate formulation components to be filled, each end of the capsule being sealed by the usual potato starch cap. Thus the sustained release of the active material from the solid component is retarded. These changes in drug release may be monitored using an *in vitro* dissolution method such as that described in Example 2 below.

[0008] However, there may be other reasons for wishing to separate the two fill compositions, for example they may contain different active compounds or different excipients which interact in an unfavourable manner and therefore the present invention is not limited to compositions such as those described in WO-A-9206680.

[0009] For example, with compositions such as those disclosed in GB Application No 9417524.7 there is the possibility of unfavourable interaction of the active ingredient, particularly if it is a protein, and the pH modifying agent (for instance, carbonate or bicarbonate). Thus, the present invention is particularly useful for such formulations.

[0010] The simplest method of preventing phase mixing is to formulate both of the fill compositions as solids but of course this will not be possible in all cases. Therefore, it is often desirable to provide some sort of physical barrier within the capsule to prevent mixing of the fill compositions.

[0011] However, there are problems with this approach. One problem is that the placing of a physical barrier between two compositions in a capsule often leads to the collapse of the capsule walls and any barrier which has this effect is of no use whatever.

[0012] Secondly, it is important to ensure that any material used as a physical barrier between fill compositions in a capsule does not interact with the fill compositions themselves. One solution which may overcome this problem is to provide a barrier of the same material as the capsule. This may be achieved by manufacturing capsules having two compartments and will be particularly effective for hard gelatin capsules and starch capsules. This approach is described in DE-A-3924887. The approach can also be applied to soft gelatin capsules and this is described in EP-A-0211079 in which multicompartiment soft capsules have a barrier which is formed simultaneously and continuously

with the capsule walls. A similar approach is taken in EP-A-0308637 which relates to multicompartiment soft capsules and also to soft gelatin capsules within a hard outer capsule.

[0013] In some cases it will not be possible to manufacture the barrier from the same material as the capsule shell. There may be a variety of reasons for this, for example the difficulties in manufacturing a two-compartment capsule and the weakness in the capsule wall which a central barrier within the capsule may introduce. In addition, for soft gelatin capsules, the capsule walls may not be strong enough to support a central barrier in the capsule.

[0014] In such cases, a barrier must be introduced into the capsule after manufacture and this will usually be done as the capsule is filled. This will retain the advantage of low manufacturing cost of the capsules whilst still separating the fill compositions and preventing them from mixing.

[0015] Therefore, in a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a pharmaceutical formulation comprising a capsule containing at least two fill compositions wherein the fill compositions are prevented from mixing with one another by a physical barrier between the fill compositions; characterised in that:

- the physical barrier is not manufactured from the same material as the capsule shell;
- the barrier material is filled into the capsules in a molten state and subsequently allowed to cool to form a solid barrier; and
- the barrier material is added to the capsule after the first fill composition and before the second fill composition.

[0016] The choice of material for the barrier is important and several factors must be taken into account. For example, if hydrophobic fill compositions are used, it may be desirable to use a hydrophilic material as a barrier between the fill compositions. On the other hand, if the fill compositions are hydrophilic in nature, then a hydrophobic material will be more suitable.

[0017] It is also highly desirable that the material used as a barrier should have a melting point such that it is a solid at any likely storage temperature. Therefore, the melting point should, at the least, be higher than 25°C (room temperature) but it is much preferred that the material should not begin to melt until it reaches about 37°C (body temperature).

[0018] A barrier formed from such a material has the advantage of easy formation since the barrier material can simply be filled into the capsules in a molten state at a temperature above its melting point and then allowed to cool and form a solid barrier. The barrier material will be added to the capsule after the first fill composition has been put into the capsule but before the addition of the second fill composition so as to form an effective barrier between the two compositions.

[0019] If the capsule is required to contain more than two fill compositions then layers of the barrier material can be added to the capsule between additions of the different fill compositions.

[0020] In addition, the barrier material must, of course, be physiologically compatible since it is to be included in a pharmaceutical formulation.

[0021] Materials which have been found to be particularly useful as barrier materials in capsules are glycerides having a transition temperature (melting point) above 37°C. Suitable glycerides include di- and tri-glycerides, such as many of the various GELUCIRE compounds, which are hydrogenated fatty acid esters available from Gattefosse. (The word GELUCIRE is a trade mark.) Other trade marks of suitable glycerides include LABRAFIL and PRECIROL. GELUCIRE compounds and other suitable compounds having transition temperatures of from 40°C to 70°C are preferred. Specific examples of exemplary GELUCIRE compounds, and their equivalents include:

- GELUCIRE 44/14
- GELUCIRE 50/02
- GELUCIRE 50/13
- 45 GELUCIRE 54/02 (also available as PRECIROL)
- GELUCIRE 62/05 and
- GELUCIRE 64/02 (also available as PRECIROL WL 2155).

[0022] The first two digits in the numeric portion of the GELUCIRE name represent the liquid/solid phase transition temperature in degrees centigrade and the second two digits represent the hydrophile/lipophile balance (HLB) value.

[0023] GELUCIRE 44/14 has a high HLB value and is therefore relatively hydrophilic. This means that it is particularly useful as a barrier in capsules containing lipophilic fill compositions such as those described in WO-A-9206680 since it will be immiscible with both of the fill compositions.

[0024] The other compounds are more suitable for use in capsules with a hydrophilic fill since they are all relatively lipophilic.

[0025] A further use for the hydrophilic phase barrier may be to allow the formulation of a hydrophilic drug for co-administration with the lipophilic delivery system described in WO-A-9206680. An example of this application is the formulation and delivery of a non-membrane damaging bile acid (a hydrophilic material) as described in WO-A-9325192

together with a lipophilic drug in the lipophilic delivery system described in WO-A-9206680. The advantage of this arrangement is for the improved delivery of drugs which undergo both high hepatic first-pass metabolism and enterohepatic recycling (e.g. haloperidol, chlorpromazine and morphine) or where the non-membrane damaging bile acid can attenuate the toxic effects of a drug subject to high first-pass metabolism and formulated as described in WO-A-9206680.

[0026] Conversely, where a lipophilic barrier is used to separate hydrophilic phases it may act as a reservoir for a co-administered lipophilic drug.

[0027] Another way in which intermixing may be prevented with the biphasic rapid and sustained-release formulations described in WO-A-9206680 containing C₁₂ to C₂₄ fatty acids, is to ensure that the rapid-release phase remains a solid at normal storage temperature, e.g. below 30°C.

[0028] This may be achieved by mixing a hydrophobic Gelucire® with a melting point above 30°C, exemplified by Gelucire 33/01, with the molten rapid release component before filling into capsules the rapid-release phase solidifying on cooling and thus being unable to undergo mixing with the resident solid sustained-release formulation component. An example of this formulation approach is given below in Example 3.

[0029] It is preferred that hard gelatin capsules are used and, in that case, liquid fill compositions may contain gelatin softening agents such as those described in WO-A-9102520. Suitable gelatin softening agents can be found by reference to the art of manufacturing soft gelatin capsules where such materials are incorporated into the mix which forms the gelatin wall. Particularly suitable gelatin softening agents include glycerol, propylene glycol, glycerol mono-oleate and sorbitol.

[0030] The capsules may be enteric coated or otherwise protected to ensure better survival of the pharmaceutically active compound through the stomach. Any convenient enteric protection method may be used. Capsules containing the formulation may be coated with an enteric coat such as hydroxypropylmethylcellulose phthalate or by the commercial coating process of Pharma-Vinci A/S (Denmark).

[0031] The formulations of the invention may be prepared by any suitable process but when a solid barrier material is used then the process may comprise filling the first fill composition, the barrier material and the second fill composition sequentially into a suitable capsule.

[0032] Therefore, in a further aspect of the invention, there is provided a process for the preparation of a capsule containing at least two fill compositions separated by a barrier material, the process comprising filling a first fill composition, the barrier material and a second fill composition sequentially into a suitable capsule.

[0033] Preferred barrier materials are as described above.

[0034] The capsule may be of any suitable material, for example hard gelatin capsules, soft gelatin capsules and starch capsules but gelatin capsules are preferred, particularly hard gelatin capsules.

[0035] The invention will now be further described with reference to the following examples which are not intended to be limiting.

EXAMPLE 1 - Biphasic Propranolol Formulation with Phase Barrier

[0036] The following example is a biphasic rapid and sustained-release propranolol formulation similar to that described in WO 92/06680. Typically these materials melt upon heating, thereby allowing the use of conventional mixing and pumping technology for fluid filling.

A. Sustained-Release Phase	mg/capsule
Propranolol	40.0
Oleic Acid BP	102.1
Colloidal silicon dioxide (Aerosil 200)	8.2
Polyoxy-40-hydrogenated castor oil NF (Cremophor RH40)	27.2
Saturated polyglycolysed glycerides Ph.F. (Gelucire 50/02)	94.5
B. Phase Barrier	
Saturated polyglycolysed glycerides Ph.F. (Gelucire 44/14)	150.0
C. Rapid-Release Phase	
Propranolol base	40.0
Oleic acid BP	110.0

A. Sustained-Release Phase

5 [0037] The oleic acid, Gelucire 50/02 and Cremophor were heated to 50°C-55°C until a clear solution was obtained. Propranolol base was added with stirring, while maintaining the temperature of the mix at 50°C and continued until the propranolol base was fully dissolved. Finally Aerosil was added while stirring. A total of 272 mg of the formulation was filled into size 0 hard gelatin capsules while hot and then allowed to solidify with cooling.

B. Phase Barrier

10 [0038] The Gelucire 44/14 was heated until fully melted at 45°C-55°C and 150 mg filled over the sustained-release phase, previously filled into size 0 hard gelatin capsules, and allowed to solidify with cooling.

C. Rapid-Release Phase

15 [0039] Oleic acid was heated with stirring at 45°C-50°C. Propranolol base was added and dissolved with stirring and allowed to cool. A total of 150 mg of the liquid rapid-release formulation was then filled over the phase barrier. The resulting capsules contained a solid sustained-release phase, solid phase separation barrier and liquid rapid-release phase. The capsules were then sealed by gelatin banding. Following gelatin banding, the capsules may be enteric-coated as described in WO 92/06680.

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EXAMPLE 2 - Dissolution Studies With and Without Phase Barrier System

25 [0040] For evaluating the dispersion behaviour of the experimental formulations, a test-method was devised based upon the USP XXII dissolution test for tablets and capsules. The aim of the test was to subject the samples to an environment similar to that in the intestine. Dispersion in 5 hours was selected as a satisfactory total release time for the test samples. This was based on the understanding that lymphatic absorption occurs predominantly in the small intestine.

30 [0041] The dissolution apparatus as specified by the USP XXII (apparatus 2) was used with Sorensens phosphate buffer, pH 6.8 containing 0.2% sodium cholate and 0.1% sodium deoxycholate, equilibrated to 37°C. The total volume of buffer added to each dissolution vessel was 900 ml, with a paddle rotation speed of 70 rpm. The paddle height was adjusted so that the top edge of the blade was level with the surface of the liquid. The test sample was dropped into the dissolution medium and the rotation of the paddle started. The test sample was allowed to float freely at the liquid surface throughout the test. At each time-point, a 5 ml aliquot of the dissolution medium was removed and replaced with 5 ml of fresh buffer solution. Each 5 ml sample was initially filtered through a 1.2 µM coarse filter and subsequent 35 1.2 µM fine filter. The absorbance of the filtered solution was then determined at 290nm using a UV at 290 nm using a UV spectrophotometer. The propranolol concentration in the dissolution medium was calculated using a pre-determined calibration curve for propranolol.

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A = Example 1 with phase barrier.

B = Example 1 without phase barrier.

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Table 1 -

30°C Storage						
% Propranolol Release						
Time (minutes)	Initial		3 Months		7 Months	
	A	B	A	B	A	B
15	36	44	39	30	34	23
30	41	53	51	38	45	29
60	49	60	57	47	50	35
120	58	64	64	61	55	43
300	77	71	78	71	69	59

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Table 2 -

37°C Storage					
% Propranolol Release					
Time (minutes)	Initial		1 Months		
	A	B	A	B	
15	36	44	26	15	
30	41	53	44	25	
60	49	60	48	37	
120	58	64	51	45	
300	77	71	62	54	

[0042] As is clear from the results shown in Tables 1 and 2 the presence of a barrier between the solid sustained release phase and the liquid phase improves considerably the amount of propranolol released, particularly from the sustained release phase. The effect of the barrier increases with the length of time for which the capsules are stored.

Claims

1. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a capsule containing at least two fill compositions wherein the fill compositions are prevented from mixing with one another by a physical barrier between the fill compositions; **characterised in that:**

the physical barrier is not manufactured from the same material as the capsule shell;
 the barrier material is filled into the capsules in a molten state and subsequently allowed to cool to form a solid barrier; and
 the barrier material is added to the capsule after the first fill composition and before the second fill composition.

2. A formulation as claimed in claim 1, wherein the physical barrier comprises a material having a melting point higher than 25°C.

3. A formulation as claimed in claim 2, wherein the barrier comprises a material having a melting point of higher than 37°C.

4. A formulation as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the fill compositions are hydrophobic in nature and are separated by a physical barrier comprising a hydrophilic material.

5. A formulation as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the fill compositions are hydrophilic in nature and are separated by a physical barrier comprising a hydrophobic material.

6. A pharmaceutical formulation as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the barrier comprises a glyceride, for example a di- or tri-glyceride, or a mixture of glycerides.

7. A pharmaceutical formulation as claimed in claim 6, wherein the barrier material comprises a hydrogenated fatty acid ester or a mixture of esters available under one of the following trade marks:

GELUCIRE 44/14
 GELUCIRE 50/13
 GELUCIRE 50/02
 GELUCIRE 54/02 (also available as PRECIROL)
 GELUCIRE 62/05 and
 GELUCIRE 64/02 (also available as PRECIROL WL 2155)

8. A formulation as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7 comprising a first fill composition comprising a C₁₂-C₂₄ fatty

acid and a pharmaceutically active substance, formulated for non-sustained release on non-parenteral administration; and a second fill composition comprising a C₁₂-C₂₄ fatty acid and a pharmaceutically active substance formulated for sustained release of the active substance on non-parenteral administration.

5 9. A formulation as claimed in claim 8, wherein the first and the second fill compositions are hydrophobic in nature and the barrier is formed from a hydrophilic mixture of hydrogenated fatty acid esters sold under the trade mark GELUCIRE 44/14.

10 10. A formulation as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 or any one of claims 5 to 7 comprising a first fill composition comprising a biologically active material and a bile acid salt and a second fill composition comprising an agent adapted to adjust the pH of the gut to a pH value of from 7.5 to 9.

15 11. A formulation as claimed in claim 10 wherein the biologically active material is a protein such as insulin, calcitonin, a growth hormone, an interferon, an interleukin or an active fragment of any of these.

12. A formulation as claimed in any one of claims 10 or claim 11, wherein the buffering agent comprises carbonate and/or bicarbonate ions.

20 13. A process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical formulation as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12, the process comprising filling a first fill composition, a barrier material and a second fill composition sequentially into a suitable capsule.

Patentansprüche

25 1. Pharmazeutische Rezeptur, welche eine Kapsel, die zumindest zwei Füllstoff-Zusammensetzungen enthält, umfasst, wobei die Füllstoff-Zusammensetzungen durch eine physische Barriere zwischen den Füllstoff-Zusammensetzungen daran gehindert werden, sich zu vermischen, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass**

30 die physische Barriere nicht aus dem gleichen Material wie die Kapselhülle hergestellt ist; das Material der Barriere in einem geschmolzenen Zustand in die Kapsel gefüllt wird und in der Folge abkühlen gelassen wird, um eine feste Begrenzung zu bilden; und das Material der Barriere nach der ersten Füllstoff-Zusammensetzung und vor der zweiten Füllstoff-Zusammensetzung zu der Kapsel hinzugefügt wird.

35 2. Rezeptur nach Anspruch 1, wobei die physische Barriere ein Material, das einen höheren Schmelzpunkt als 25° C hat, aufweist.

40 3. Rezeptur nach Anspruch 2, wobei die Barriere ein Material, das einen höheren Schmelzpunkt als 37° C hat, aufweist.

45 4. Rezeptur nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 3, wobei die Füllstoff-Zusammensetzungen hydrophober Natur sind und durch eine physische Barriere, die ein hydrophiles Material aufweist, getrennt sind.

50 5. Rezeptur nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 3, wobei die Füllstoff-Zusammensetzungen hydrophiler Natur sind und durch eine physische Barriere, die ein hydrophobes Material aufweist, getrennt sind.

6. Pharmazeutische Rezeptur nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 5, wobei die Barriere ein Glycerid, zum Beispiel ein Di- oder Triglycerid, oder eine Mischung von Glyceriden enthält.

7. Pharmazeutische Rezeptur nach Anspruch 6, wobei das Material der Barriere ein hydrierter Fettsäureester oder eine Mischung von Estern, die unter einer der folgenden Handelsmarken erhältlich sind, umfasst:

55 GELUCIRE 44/14
 GELUCIRE 50/13
 GELUCIRE 50/02
 GELUCIRE 54/02 (auch erhältlich als PRECIROL)
 GELUCIRE 62/05 und

GELUCIRE 64/02 (auch erhältlich als PRECIROL WL 2155)

8. Rezeptur nach einen der Ansprüche 1 bis 7, welche eine erste Füllstoff-Zusammensetzung, die eine C₁₂-C₂₄ Fettsäure und eine pharmazeutisch aktive Substanz enthält, die für eine nicht verzögerte Freisetzung bei nicht parenteraler Verabreichung formuliert ist; und eine zweite Füllstoff-Zusammensetzung, die eine C₁₂-C₂₄ Fettsäure und eine pharmazeutisch aktive Substanz enthält, die für eine verzögerte Freisetzung der aktiven Substanz bei nicht parenteraler Verabreichung formuliert ist, umfasst.

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9. Rezeptur nach Anspruch 8, wobei die erste und die zweite Füllstoff-Zusammensetzung hydrophober Natur sind und die Barriere von einer hydrophilen Mischung hydrierter Fettsäureester, die unter der Handelsmarke GELUCIRE 10 44/14 verkauft werden, gebildet ist.

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10. Rezeptur nach einen der Ansprüche 1 bis 3 oder nach einen der Ansprüche 5 bis 7, welche eine erste Füllstoff-Zusammensetzung, die ein biologisch aktives Material und ein Gallensäuresalz enthält, und eine zweite Füllstoff-Zusammensetzung, die einen Wirkstoff enthält, der geeignet ist, den pH des Darms auf einen pH-Wert von 7,5 bis 15 9 zu regulieren, umfasst.

11. Rezeptur nach Anspruch 10, wobei das biologisch aktive Material ein Protein wie Insulin, Calcitonin, ein Wachstumshormon, ein Interferon, ein Interleukin oder ein aktives Fragment von irgendeinem dieser ist.

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12. Rezeptur nach Anspruch 10 oder 11, wobei die Puffersubstanz Carbonat- und/oder Bicarbonat-lone enthält.

13. Verfahren zur Herstellung einer pharmazeutischen Rezeptur nach einen der Ansprüche 1 bis 12, wobei das Verfahren das Abfüllen von einer ersten Füllstoff-Zusammensetzung, einem Barrierematerial und einer zweiten Füllstoff-Zusammensetzung der Reihe nach in eine geeignete Kapsel, umfasst.

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Revendications

30 1. Composition pharmaceutique comprenant une gélule contenant au moins deux compositions de remplissage dans laquelle on empêche le mélange des compositions de remplissage l'une à l'autre par une barrière physique entre les compositions de remplissage; **caractérisée en ce que :**

35 la barrière physique n'est pas fabriquée à partir du même matériau que la coque de la gélule;
le matériau de barrière est chargé dans les gélules dans un état fondu et ultérieurement laissé à refroidir pour former une barrière solide; et
le matériau de barrière est ajouté à la gélule après la première composition de remplissage et avant la deuxième composition de remplissage.

40 2. Formulation suivant la revendication 1, dans laquelle la barrière physique comprend un matériau présentant un point de fusion supérieur à 25°C.

45 3. Formulation suivant la revendication 2, dans laquelle la barrière comprend un matériau présentant un point de fusion supérieur à 37°C.

4. Formulation suivant l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 3, dans laquelle les compositions de remplissage sont hydrophobes par nature et sont séparées par une barrière physique comprenant un matériau hydrophile.

50 5. Formulation suivant l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 3, dans laquelle les compositions de remplissage sont hydrophiles par nature et sont séparées par une barrière physique comprenant un matériau hydrophobe.

6. Formulation pharmaceutique suivant l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 5, dans laquelle la barrière comprend un glycéride, par exemple, un di- ou un triglycéride, ou un mélange de glycérides.

55 7. Formulation pharmaceutique suivant la revendication 6, dans laquelle le matériau de barrière comprend un ester d'acide gras hydrogéné ou un mélange d'esters disponible sous l'une des marques déposées suivantes :

le GELUCIRE 44/14

le GELUCIRE 50/13
le GELUCIRE 50/02
le GELUCIRE 54/02 (également disponible en tant que PRECIROL)
le GELUCIRE 62/05 et
5 le GELUCIRE 64/02 (également disponible en tant que PRECIROL WL 2155).

8. Formulation suivant l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 7, comprenant une première composition de remplissage comprenant un acide gras en C₁₂-C₂₄ et une substance pharmaceutiquement active, formulée pour une libération non prolongée lors d'une administration non parentérale; et une deuxième composition de remplissage comprenant un acide gras en C₁₂-C₂₄ et une substance pharmaceutiquement active formulée pour une libération prolongée de la substance active lors d'une administration non parentérale.

10 9. Formulation suivant la revendication 8, dans laquelle les première et deuxième compositions de remplissage sont hydrophobes par nature et la barrière est formée d'un mélange hydrophile d'esters d'acides gras hydrogénés vendu sous la marque déposée GELUCIRE 44/14.

15 10. Formulation suivant l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 3 ou l'une quelconque des revendications 5 à 7, comprenant une première composition de remplissage comprenant un matériau biologiquement actif et un sel d'acide biliaire et une deuxième composition de remplissage comprenant un agent adapté pour ajuster le pH de 20 l'intestin à une valeur de pH de 7,5 à 9.

11. Formulation suivant la revendication 10, dans laquelle le matériau biologiquement actif est une protéine telle que l'insuline, la calcitonine, une hormone de croissance, un interféron, une interleukine ou un fragment actif d'un quelconque de ceux-ci.

25 12. Formulation suivant l'une quelconque de la revendication 10 ou de la revendication 11, dans laquelle l'agent tampon comprend des ions carbonate et/ou bicarbonate.

13. Procédé pour la préparation d'une formulation pharmaceutique suivant l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 30 12, le procédé comprenant le remplissage avec une première composition de remplissage, un matériau de barrière et une deuxième composition de remplissage de manière séquentielle dans une gélule appropriée.

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